

Message Text

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TAGS: OVIP (CARTER, JIMMY), GW, WB
SUBJ: BACKGROUND AND HISTORY - ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, FRANKFURT

1. THE ELLIPTIC CHURCH STRUCTURE IN CLASSICISTIC STYLE WAS COMPLETED IN 1792, ITS TOWER IN 1834. IT IS HISTORICALLY OF GREAT IMPORTANCE AS THE SEAT OF GERMANY'S FIRST ELECTED NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, 1848-49. DURING THIS REVOLUTIONARY PERIOD, THE RULER OF THE THIRTY-ODD INDEPENDENT GERMAN STATES PERMITTED THE HOLDING OF FREE ELECTIONS FOR A PARLIAMENT MEETING AT ST. PAUL'S, THAT TRIED TO UNIFY THE NATION AND INTRODUCE A LIBERAL CONSTITUTION. THE LIBERAL MIDDLE-CLASS REPRESENTATIVES -- AMONG THEM MANY ILLUSTRIOUS SCHOLARS AND POETS, SUCH AS WILHELM GRIMM, ERNST MORITZ ARNDT, AND LUDWIG UHLAND -- ULTIMATELY FAILED IN THEIR ATTEMPTS. THE ST. PAUL'S CHURCH ASSEMBLY SYMBOLIZES THE GERMAN NATION'S STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM AND UNITY, AND MARKS THE BEGINNING OF MIDDLE-CLASS PARTICIPATION IN THE POLITICAL PROCESS.

2. DURING THE SECOND WORLD WAR THE CHURCH BURNED OUT COMPLETELY. IT WAS REBUILT IN 1948 AS A REMINDER OF GERMANY'S LIBERAL TRADITION, AND

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MEANT TO BE THE SEAT OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC'S NEW PARLIAMENT. ST. PAUL'S IS NOW AN ASSEMBLY AND EXHIBIT HALL OF GREAT NATIONAL VALUE. IT IS HERE THAT THE WINNER OF THE PEACE PRIZE OF THE GERMAN PUBLISHING INDUSTRY DELIVERS THE ANNUAL ADDRESS, AND IT WAS HERE THAT PRESIDENT KENNEDY SPOKE IN 1963.

3. AT THE NORTH ENTRANCE, THE SCULPTURE OF A MAN STRUGGLING

AGAINST HIS SCHAKLES SERVES AS A REMINDER OF THE VICTIMS OF
THE NAZI PERIOD.LEHMANN

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